

Newsletter Issue #3 - 19.06.2020

Special Initiative „One World - No Hunger“ (SEWOH) Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture



A platform to exchange information, knowledge and expertise

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the third issue of the Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter.

On the following pages you will find the now familiar updates on successes in the different country packages.

Projects in the different countries have of course not been untouched by the COVID-19 outbreaks. Changed circumstances required adaptation of activities and finding new solutions. This newsletter therefore shows two approaches of how projects responded to the new challenges.

Enjoy reading and please stay healthy!

The Communication Team

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Innovations against post-harvest losses

Between 2010 and 2018, pirogue seine fishing catches in Mauritania's EEZ rose from 1 million tons to 1.4 million tons and pirogues increased from 172 to more than 350. However, rather than increasing the availability of products for food insecure people, the number of fish meal plants and amount of post-harvest losses went up. The latter are estimated to be one third of daily artisanal catches.

In November 2019, the EU-co-funded SEWOH Promopêche project formed an expert group that identified technical innovations to reduce post-harvest losses. In its first stage, the group develops pilots to render the gear and vessels more sustainable, to reorganize the landings and to provide equipment for the conservation of the fish products. The aim is to limit the crushing of the sardinellas on the boats and improve the handling techniques on land. Two teams made up of professionals and researchers, one in Nouadhibou and one in Nouakchott, supervise the progress and discuss priorities and further actions during monthly meetings.

The second stage, which will begin in the second half of 2020, will see the implementation of the pilots and hence the promotion of a more sustainable fishing system adapted to small pelagic fish. This is to contribute to food security in Mauritania as well as SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

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Transport of large quantities of sardinella in Nouakchott by unsanitary means with significant post-harvest losses shortly after landing. The project intervention will improve the equipment for handling the product and its conservation before distribution @GIZ



The expert group for technical innovations in Nouakchott © GIZ

Uganda



Self-inspections in fish processing factories

Since 2006, fish stocks and catches of Nile perch in Lake Victoria have dwindled due to overexploitation of the fisheries resource. After the closure of 18 factories, Uganda Fish Processors and Exporters Association (UFPEA) launched a routine self-inspections scheme to ensure that all fish processed is of legal size.

In 2018, the SEWOH Responsible Fisheries Business Chains Project (RFBCP) started its support to UFPEA, in order to increase frequency and number of self-inspections in fish processing factories.

Self-inspection guidelines of 2010 were reviewed, 314 factory workers (88 women and 226 men), and 437 fish suppliers (106 women and 331 men) were trained on the reviewed guidelines. By June 2020, 441 self-inspections had been carried out in 11 fish factories.

As a result, the number of undersized fish processed in factories has reduced significantly and by adhering to international standards UFPEA has wider access to markets for fish. The factory self-inspections, together with law enforcement by Fish Protection Units on Lake Victoria, have led to fish stock recovery. This allowed 8 of the 18 factories to reopen, thus creating additional jobs.

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Factory workers processing fish © GIZ-RFBCP



Measuring Nile perch to see whether it has legal size © GIZ-RFBCP



Consultation workshop for an authorisation card for fish farmers

The SEWOH Sustainable Aquaculture Project in Madagascar (Projet Aquaculture Durable à Madagascar, PADM) supports the development of the legislative and policy framework for the aquaculture sector. In March, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, supported by PADM, organised a consultation workshop for the draft implementing decree to introduce an authorisation card for fish farmers in inland waters. The authorisation card is an important tool to officially recognise fish farmers who are, at the moment, mostly working and selling illegally.

Around 77 participants attended the workshop, including key representatives of the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture at national and regional level, local authorities and representatives of fish farmers from ten regions of Madagascar. During the two days, participants discussed the phrasing of the decree and the design of the card and developed proposals for the practical introduction of the card. The comments and remarks were taken up in the finalised decree.

With the signature of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the decree came into force in May 2020. Next steps for the application of the decree include printing and distributing the cards as well as campaigns to inform fish farmers and concerned authorities about its use.

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Participants at the Workshop © GIZ– PADM



Unlocking sustainable fish production - case of fingerling production



A fingerling producer packaging fingerlings in oxygenated bags © GIZ-AVCP



Fish farmers transporting fingerlings to nearby farms to stock their ponds © GIZ-AVCP

Lack of high quality fingerlings has been a challenge to sustainable fish production in Malawi for a long time. Government owned farms were not able to meet the demand and, due to this shortage of fingerlings, fish farmers could not stock and harvest their ponds in fear of failing to restock for the next production cycle.

To address this issue, in 2019 the SEWOH Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP) selected and professionally trained 28 fish farmers in 13 districts across Malawi to reliably produce fingerlings and supply them to fish farmers.

The farmers received input materials and regular support through extension services to allow mass fingerling production. Currently, the selected farmers produce over 10,000,000 high-quality fingerlings per year at an affordable price and are anticipated to reach over 4,500 fish farmers by 2023.

The fish farmer Mr. Version Wyson is amongst those who already benefited from this increased supply, stocking his ponds with 720 fingerlings. Five months later he had produced 15,000 fingerlings. These he sold to 9 fish farmer groups and 12 individual farmers, gaining a total income of MK300,000 (around 370 EUR). Mr. Wyson believes that with this vibrant start, there is a great opportunity to reach more farmers soon and gain more income to support his family.

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Intermittent harvest could improve productivity of early breeding tilapia



Freshly caught fingerlings in a fish trap made of chicken wire © GIZ-AVCP



The research site with eighteen ponds at the National Aquaculture Center in Domasi, Malawi © GIZ-AVCP

The tilapia species *Oreochromis shiranus* and *Coptodon rendalli* are commonly farmed in Malawi and are known as prolific spawners. In mixed sex stocking this often leads to an overstocking with offsprings over time, which is problematic when producing table sized fish. Small sized fish are very popular in rural markets because they can be shared easily in families, yet the demand is mainly covered by wild fish stocks from Lake Malawi.

By frequently removing offsprings from the ponds with intermittent harvests before they reach maturity, the overall productivity of a pond could be improved. The continuous supply of fresh small fish could be an additional source of income for small-scale fish farmers and help meet the demand for high-quality protein of the population. Additionally, the intermittent harvest could reduce pressure on wild fish stocks in Lake Malawi.

In cooperation with the GIZ Sectoral Programme and the National Aquaculture Centre of Malawi, the SEWOH Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP) conducts a research study to assess the potential of intermittent harvest. Offsprings of a certain size are extracted from the ponds on a regular basis using fish traps, ensuring a frequent availability of fish for home consumption and source of income. The principle of intermittent harvest is explained in a [short video clip](#) for teaching purposes.

For more information please contact Ladislao Di Domenica ladislao.di@giz.de



Remote learning for rice-fish farmers

The dissemination of rice-fish farming is one of the objectives of the SEWOH Sustainable Aquaculture Project in Madagascar (Projet Aquaculture Durable à Madagascar, PADM). The current sanitary restrictions in the project intervention regions in Madagascar due to COVID-19 impede training of rice-fish farmers on sustainable production techniques in physical presence. Due to the ban on gatherings of groups and the difficulty of reaching all the rice-fish farmers individually by phone it was decided to rely on representative rice-fish farmers who can be easily reached. They act as multipliers between the project and the target groups.

It is furthermore planned to deliver training to rice-fish farmers via radio, as this is the communication channel most used in rural areas. PADM will produce a series of five to ten minute podcasts with the key training information. Also, print media will be distributed to simplify the content of the podcasts through comics, posters or simple illustrations.

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Working in the field during Corona © APDRA



Aquaculture Round Table supports the aquaculture sub-sector in the fight against COVID-19

Since 21st March, the state of emergency in Malawi restricts public life and businesses to curb the spread of COVID-19. Basic hygiene and good health education are the best means against infectious diseases. Only 42 percent of rural households in Malawi have access to basic sanitation and the dissemination of untruths about the pandemic, like the intake of ginger as prevention, contributes to uncertainty among the population.

Supported by the SEWOH Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP), the multi-stakeholder platform Aquaculture Round Table (AquaRT) coordinated the procurement and distribution of sanitary products and information materials to stakeholders. AVCP presented the prevention materials to the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security in the presence of the German Ambassador to Malawi, J. Borsch, on 7th May 2020. In 13 districts more than 2,000 fish farmers and their communities, fishery offices and institutes were equipped with soaps, hand sanitizers, surface disinfectants, face masks, water buckets and educational materials.

Coordination of interventions in the aquaculture sector is one of the main tasks of the AquaRT. To improve the coordination capabilities and communication of the AquaRT, AVCP provided tablets and credit for mobile data for the chairpersons of the AquaRT working groups.

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Official handing over of COVID-19 prevention materials (left to right: Dr. Njaya, Director of Fisheries; Mr Nyandule – Phiri, Principle secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Mr. Kasaila, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security; Mr. Borsch, German Ambassador; Mr. Walsch, GIZ Country Director © GIZ-AVCP

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